



NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Helping To Coordinate Evacuation of Nursing Home and Assisted Living Residents in Fargo

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is helping to coordinate the evacuation of four elder-care facilities in Fargo, N.D., according to Bruce Pritschett, director of the Division of Health Facilities for the Department of Health.

Fargo city officials have recommended the evacuation of the facilities as a precaution because of flood conditions. The evacuation of about 450 residents was scheduled to begin at noon Thursday, March 26, 2009. The facilities involved include Elim Care, Waterford at Harwood Groves, Riverview Place and Villa Maria.

The Department of Health is working with Fargo Cass Public Health and the state's long-term care facilities and ambulance services to coordinate evacuation of residents. Efforts include:

- Identifying ambulance services and buses in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota that are able to assist with resident transfers.
- Working with nursing home facilities across the state to identify availability of beds for evacuated residents.
- Working with the evacuating facilities to determine number of residents needing transfer.
- Connecting evacuating facilities with facilities able to receive residents.
- Working with the U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to clarify reimbursement issues.
- Identifying staging areas for ambulances assisting with resident transfers.
- Tracking the transfer of each resident, including name of resident, facility evacuated from, and facility evacuated to.

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Not all residents of the evacuated facilities will be transferred to other facilities. Instead, some residents have been discharged to family members or have made other arrangements.

For more information, contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372 or 701.328.1312.

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